Western University
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3010F

Introduction to Rural Communities

Instructor: Sherri Preszcator  September 2013
Email: spreszc@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Lectures: Wednesdays  6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  HSB 236

**Prerequisite:** Health Sciences 2610F/G

**Note:** Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Course Description**
This course provides an introduction to rural communities and how they differ from urban communities. Rural vs. urban comparisons will be introduced from sociological, infrastructure, political, and health services perspectives.

**Course Objectives**
The learning objectives of this course are for students to:
- Understand rural communities from a variety of perspectives, and how rural communities are defined and how they define themselves
- Understand the health of the rural population
- Understand how the social determinants of health affect people living in rural communities
- Understand the most important issues in rural health care and the policies and approaches that can address these issues successfully
- Understand the roles of various levels of government, federal, provincial and municipal to deliver service programs to rural communities

**Course Website**
https://owl.uwo.ca/portal

This course is supported by OWL. All course information will be made available there. Please monitor the announcements menu on the course website for any changes or cancellations in lectures, tutorials or readings.
Learning Perspective

Student learning is the shared responsibility of both students and the faculty. Every attempt will be made to make classes stimulating and motivating using active learning principles. Active student involvement is expected. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate, work collaboratively with, and contribute to the learning of their classmates, and to notify the instructor if the pace of the lectures is too fast or too slow. Comments, suggestions and constructive feedback are always welcome and appreciated.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend all classes as material covered during lectures may not be in your readings and the majority of material for the final exam will come from classroom content, including group presentations. It is the students’ responsibility to complete the required readings and come to class prepared to discuss the content outlined. Responsibility for note-taking is that of students. If you are having any problems or difficulties with any aspect of the course, please contact the course instructor.

Learning Environment

Courtesy and respect for the learning environment is expected. Students are expected to arrive at lectures on time. It is expected that students will be considerate of their colleagues and the instructor. Students are reminded to keep any noise and disruption to an absolute minimum in class, and to use email judiciously and not frivolously.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook to purchase. Links to all the course materials are provided on webct. You are responsible for accessing the materials.

Evaluation

Students’ academic performance will be assessed in the following ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage of grade</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Group Assignment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 1: Community profile and SWOT analysis</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>October 23, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 2: Final Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>November 20 or 27, 2013</td>
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<td>Part 3: Class presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>November 20 or 27, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Recommendations report</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 6, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 9, 2013</td>
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<td>D. Final examination</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>During final exam period</td>
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**A. Group Assignment – Community Health Assessment (35%)**

Understanding and meeting the needs of a community is fundamental in creating sustainable rural communities and can increase the health and well-being of community members. Working in groups of 4-5 students will choose a rural community in Ontario and complete a community health assessment.

By definition: A community health assessment is a dynamic ongoing process undertaken to identify the strengths and needs of the community, enable the community-wide establishment of health priorities and facilitate collaborative action planning directed at improving community health status and quality of life.

There are three parts to this assignment:

**Part 1: Community profile and SWOT analysis (10%)**

Each group will prepare a community profile and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of their chosen rural community that features an overview of the following: community demographics, health services review, state of economy and other environmental influences. They will also conduct an introductory SWOT analysis of the community that will provide the basis for their final report. A brief overview of the literature that relates to the subject of the paper; the main themes or issues to be explored (with sub-headings if required); concluding discussion regarding the significance of the proposed subject matter will also be included. The outline should be 4-5 double-spaced pages and the literature review 2-3.

Report is due October 23, 2013.

**Part 2: Final Report (20%)**

Based on your previously submitted community profile and SWOT analysis groups will prepare a community assessment report for their rural region. The report will be no more than ten pages in length not including cover page and references. Both the outline and the final paper must be submitted in hard copy and electronically to turnitin.com via OWL. (see section on Academic Integrity).

Report is due November 20 or 27, 2013.
Part 3: Class presentation (5%)
Each group will be asked to present their community assessment to the class. Presentations will be no more than 10 minutes in length and students can use any method of delivery they choose (ie. Prezi, powerpoint, handouts, google earth, pictoral chart).

Presentations will be during class on November 20th or the 27th, 2013.

Full details of each part of the group assignment will be posted on OWL.

B. Recommendation Report (15%)
Each student will be asked to review the Ontario Rural Council report – Rethinking Rural Health Care: Innovations Making a Difference. Students will choose ONE of the recommended actions identified in the report and research the topic, look at the current status of the issue, select facts, statistics and images to support the action. Students will then be required to prepare a future recommendations report based on their findings. The report is due November 6th, 2013 at the beginning of class. The report must be submitted in hard copy and electronically to turnitin.com via OWL. (see section on Academic Integrity). Further guidelines regarding the report will be distributed and will be posted on OWL.

C. Midterm examination (15%)
There will be a midterm examination covering the material in the course to date. It will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The midterm will be held on October 9, 2013 during regular class time.

D. Final examination (35%)
There will be a final examination covering ALL course material during the final exam period. It will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.

General rules and guidelines for assignments and grades:

Academic integrity:
Misrepresenting the work of others as your own, constitutes academic dishonesty and is a major academic offence in the University (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the UWO Academic Calendar). Ensure that you know what plagiarism is and what your obligations are. Review the UWO guide Cheating, Plagiarism and Unauthorized Collaboration:
What Students Need to Know found at: http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/pdf/academicintegrity
All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.
Lateness and lateness penalties:
You are expected to complete and turn your assignments in on time.

- The assigned date for a group presentation is firm. All members of the group must be in class for the presentation. A group member’s absence on the day of the group’s presentation will result in a grade of 0% for the assignment. The only exception is if the instructor is notified by a student by email before the class and there are valid extenuating circumstances as documented in the Policy on Medical Accommodation (see below).
- A late assignment will be penalized 5% each day past the due date (including weekends) except for valid extenuating circumstances.

Privacy:
BHSc. Program policy does not permit email or telephone communication of grades. Confidential access of grades is available through OWL. Students may also arrange a meeting with the instructor to discuss grades.

Student Inquiries:
Students may direct inquiries to the instructor after class or via email at spreszc@uwo.ca. It is expected that email communication will be used respectfully and judiciously.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:
Electronic devices such as cell phones, must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for note taking during lectures. Using laptops to access MSN, email or the internet during class time is not acceptable. No electronic devices are permitted during tests/examinations.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf.

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades


Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in
order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

**Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Additionally,
1. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).
2. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

**Support Services**

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
1. Student Development Centre -- http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/
2. Student Health -- http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html
3. Registrar’s Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/